

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 TOKYO 16450 171139Z

53

ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 OMB-01

OFA-01 DLOS-04 IO-10 EB-07 CG-00 DOTE-00 AS-01 /080 W

----- 042387

R 170951Z NOV 75

FM AMEMBASSY TOKYO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4918

INFO: RUMJSL/AMEMBASSY SEOUL 6567

CINCPAC HONOLULU HI

C O N F I D E N T I A L TOKYO 16450

E.O. GDS

TAGS: PFOR, JA, KN

SUBJECT: SHOSEI MARU CREWMEN RETURN TO JAPAN: GOJ CONTEMPLATING
PROTEST

REF: TOKYO 15791 DTG 050902 NOV 75

1. IN JOINT PRESS CONFERENCE HELD AFTER TWO SHOSEI MARU CREWMEN RETURNED JAPAN NOV 14, SKIPPER OF SHIP, MIKIO TAGAWA, DENIED THAT HIS TRAWLER VIOLATED NORTH KOREAN TERRITORIAL WATERS AND SAID THAT HE HAD BEEN INDIRECTLY FORCED TO CONFESS TO VIOLATING NK TERRITORIAL SEAS. RETURNING TWO CREWMEN, FOR SAKES OF WHOM TAGAWA EARLIER MISREPRESENTED FACTS, TOLD SAME PRESS CONFERENCE THEY THOUGHT SHOSEI MARU WAS IN NK TERRITORIAL WATERS. FONOFF IS INCLINED TO BELIEVE SHIP CAPTAIN TAGAWA AND, AFTER STUDY BEING MADE BY JAPAN MARITIME SAFETY AGENCY IS CONCLUDED, FONOFF CONTEMPLATES AN OFFICIAL PROTEST TO PYONGYANG.

2. FONOFF NE ASIA DIVDIR ENDO CONFIRMED TO US THAT FONOFF IS CONSIDERING PROTEST VIA UNPRECEDENTED "NOTE VERBALE" AFTER INVESTIGATION IS COMPLETED. THIS WOULD BE FIRST ATTEMPT BY GOJ TO COMMUNICATE AN OFFICIAL
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 TOKYO 16450 171139Z

DIPLOMATIC DOCUMENT TO A NATION WITH WHICH JAPAN HAS NO

DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS. RATIONALE FOR DEPARTURE IS THAT A UNILATERAL PROTEST BY GOJ WOULD INEFFECTUALLY CONVEY GOJ INTENT TO PYONGYANG. WHETHER NORTH KOREANS WOULD ACCEPT SUCH A DOCUMENT, OF COURSE, ALSO REMAINS TO BE SEEN. PROTEST MAY, ENDO SAID, RESERVE RIGHT TO DEMAND COMPENSATION FOR DEATHS OF TWO CREWMEN AND INJURIES AND IF IT IS DECIDED BY GOJ THAT THERE WAS NO VIOLATION OF TERRITORIAL WATERS, JAPAN MAY ALSO DEMAND PUNISHMENT OF NK OFFICIALS RESPONSIBLE FOR THE INCIDENT. NEVERTHELESS, OUT OF CONSIDERATION OF FUTURE JAPAN-NK RELATIONS GOJ WILL PROCEED CAUTIOUSLY.

3. COMMENT: IF GOJ DECIDES TO ATTEMPT A DIPLOMATIC COMMUNICATIONS WITH PYONGYANG, IN ADDITION TO ENSURING THAT GOJ MESSAGE WOULD BE ACCURATELY CONVEYED TO NK, WE SUSPECT THAT FONOFF IS ALSO TRYING TO ESTABLISH A CHANNEL FOR POSSIBLE FUTURE GOVERNMENTAL COMMUNICATIONS BETWEEN TOKYO AND PYONGYANG.
HODGSON

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: SHIP DETENTION, PRISONERS RELEASE, DIPLOMATIC PROTESTS, SHOSEI MARU, TERRITORIAL WATERS VIOLATIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 17 NOV 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: BoyleJA
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975TOKYO16450
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: DG ALTERED
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750399-0882
From: TOKYO
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19751138/aaaabier.tel
Line Count: 80
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 75 TOKYO 15791
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: BoyleJA
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 16 JUL 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <16 JUL 2003 by MartinML>; APPROVED <16 JUL 2003 by BoyleJA>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
06 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: SHOSEI MARU CREWMEN RETURN TO JAPAN: GOJ CONTEMPLATING PROTEST
TAGS: PFOR, JA, KN
To: STATE CINCPAC HONOLULU
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006